

OPEN SESSION STATEMENT

by

Mr. George Bush
Director of Central Intelligence

before the

House Select Committee on Drug Abuse and Control

1000 hours - Room 210 Cannon Building
29 September 1976

Mr. Chairman:

I am happy to appear before this newly established Select Committee to discuss the role that the Central Intelligence Agency plays in our Government's efforts to stop the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States. We are fully aware of this menace to our society and share the concern of the Congress and of the country. In accordance with Presidential directive, the CIA is supporting the law enforcement agencies which have primary responsibility for narcotics control - the principal agency being the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Mr. Chairman, it should be made clear at the outset that the CIA's basic charter, the National Security Act of 1947, expressly provides that the Agency has no law enforcement or police powers. Accordingly, CIA's role is limited to providing appropriate agencies with intelligence identifying the flow of international illegal narcotics traffic into the United States. Such collection is not intended to include information for use as evidence in criminal prosecutions. More clearly stated, the Agency cannot be directly involved in any criminal investigative efforts to develop evidence needed for arrest and prosecution. This important point must be understood as I believe there have been serious misconceptions as to the exact role of the Central Intelligence Agency in this effort.

The CIA did not become formally tasked to develop intelligence concerning international illegal narcotics traffic until October 1969 when President Nixon established a White House Task Force on Narcotics Control. Prior to 1969, CIA provided informational support on its own initiative and on an ad hoc basis to Federal agencies responsible for international narcotics control. The White House Task Force was given the mission to formulate and implement a program to stem the flow of heroin and opiates into the United States. A representative of the Director of Central Intelligence was appointed to the Task Force, and the CIA was requested to use its existing intelligence gathering apparatus, to the extent possible, to provide foreign narcotics-related intelligence to other agencies which were involved in diplomatic, enforcement and treatment and rehabilitation initiatives coordinated by the Task Force.

In September 1971, the President elevated international narcotics control to a higher priority and established the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control (CCINC) to succeed the Task Force. The CCINC was made responsible for coordinating all United States diplomatic, intelligence and enforcement activities aimed at curtailing the flow of illegal narcotics and dangerous drugs into the country. The Director was appointed a member of the CCINC, and the Agency was delegated the responsibility for coordinating all United States clandestine foreign narcotics intelligence gathering with respect to narcotics.

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The CIA provides CCINC member agencies with a wide range of foreign intelligence information to help the United States achieve two basic objectives: --to obtain the cooperation of foreign governments in curtailing the production and trafficking of narcotics; --to provide foreign and appropriate United States enforcement agencies with the identities and methods of major foreign drug traffickers.

Executive Order 11905, issued on 19 February 1976 by President Ford, discusses United States Foreign Intelligence Activities and sets forth the authorities and responsibilities of the intelligence departments and agencies. It confirms the role of the CIA in this area by expressly making the Agency responsible for the collection and production of intelligence on foreign aspects of narcotics traffic. Subsequent instruction from the White House has made it clear that this responsibility is limited by the proscription in the National Security Act of 1947 which I previously mentioned and that the Agency's efforts concern only "strategic" intelligence relating to international narcotics traffic such as identifying major source countries for narcotics and predominant international routes for transporting narcotics.

Mr. Chairman, any further discussions of CIA's activities in this field involve classified matters. Therefore, I would respectfully request, that any further testimony be given in Executive Session.

Thank you.

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Briefing of
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROL

Wednesday - 29 September 1976

10:00 a.m.

Room 210 Cannon House Office Building

Lester L. Wolff (D., N.Y.), Chairman

Peter Rodino (D., N.J.)
Paul G. Rogers (D., Fla.)
E. (Kika) De La Garza (D., Tex.)
James R. Mann (D., S. Car.)
Herman Badillo (D., N.Y.)
Morgan F. Murphy (D., Ill.)
Charles B. Rangel (D., N.Y.)
Fortney Stark (D., Calif.)
James H. Scheuer (D., N.Y.)

Glenn English (D., Okla.)
Henry A. Waxman (D., Calif.)
J. Hebert Burke (R., Fla.)
Tom Railsback (R., Ill.)
Lou Frey, Jr. (R., Fla.)
Benjamin Gilman (R., N.Y.)
Tennyson Guyer (R., Ohio)
Robin Beard (R., Tenn.)

Staff Members

Tom Vogel
Joseph Nellis, Chief Counsel
William Lawrence, Chief of Staff

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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Director

9/28/76

JB/K

Attached are both unclassified and classified statements for your appearance before Representative Wolff's Committee on Drug Abuse on Wednesday. A list of Committee members is also attached.

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